



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**GUILTY PLEA ENTERED IN ATTEMPTED FIREBOMBING**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced this afternoon that Antonio Flores pled guilty to charges relating to an attempted firebombing of the Islamic Center of El Paso.

Flores pleaded guilty to damaging or attempting to damage religious property and the use of fire or an explosive device in the commission of a felony. At the plea hearing yesterday, Flores admitted that he threw a Molotov cocktail at the Islamic Center and placed a second, similar device near a gas meter on the Center's property.

"It is disappointing that in the year 2005 there are people who are willing to risk the lives of innocent children because of racial or religious bigotry. Today, Mr. Flores learned that we will prosecute with everything we've got anyone who commits these crimes," stated U.S. Attorney Johnny Sutton.

He faces a maximum sentence of 30 years in federal prison and a \$250,000 fine. This case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney Bill Lewis.

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